

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

OMB-01 ACDA-05 /066 W

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R 161840Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8848

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT FR XG

SUBJECT: GAULLISTS SEE "EVIDENT DANGERS" IN POPULARLY  
ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REF: PARIS 07676

SUMMARY: GAULLIST PARTY (UDR) EXECUTIVE BUREAU IN PRES-  
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ENCE OF PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC HAS ADOPTED RESOLUTION

TERMINING ARGUMENTS FOR POPULARLY ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT "UNCONVINCING" AND POSING SEVERE CONDITIONS FOR CONCEPT'S IMPLEMENTATION. IF MAINTAINED, UDR POSITION WILL HAVE EFFECTIVE RESULT OF PLACING GAULLISTS IN VIRTUAL OPPOSITION TO POPULARLY ELECTED PARLIAMENT. RESOLUTION MAY BE FIRST IN SERIES OF MORE INDEPENDENT UDR POSITIONS IN EFFORT TO REASSERT GAULLIST PRINCIPLES FOLLOWING PARTY'S POOR SHOWING IN CANTONAL ELECTIONS. RESOLUTION ALSO MARKS FIRST TIME WE HAVE WITNESSED CHIRAC PUBLICLY ASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH POSITION SEEMINGLY AT VARIANCE WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD'S THINKING. PRESIDENCY, HOWEVER, FEELS PARLIAMENT AND MAJORITY OF UDR WILL GO ALONG WITH PACKAGE THAT GISCARD WILL NEGOTIATE AT NEXT EUROPEAN SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MARCH 15 SESSION, UDR EXECUTIVE BUREAU UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED STRONGLY WORDED RESOLUTION ON POPULARLY ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. AFTER BRUSHING OFF ARGUMENTS FOR POPULAR ELECTIONS AS "UNCONVINCING," THE RESOLUTION, IN A TYPICALLY GAULLIST ASSERTION, MAINTAINED THAT ONLY NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS CAN CREATE THE "POLITICAL WILL" NECESSARY FOR EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION. THE RESOLUTION ALSO NOTED CERTAIN "EVIDENT DANGERS" IN POPULAR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. THESE INCLUDE THE TRANSFER OF NATIONAL POLITICAL QUARRELS TO THE EUROPEAN LEVEL AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY POWERS TO THE POINT WHERE THAT BODY WOULD BE IN DIRECT COMPETITION WITH NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS. RATHER THAN DIRECTLY RULING OUT GAULLIST SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT, HOWEVER, THE RESOLUTION POSED SEVERAL CONDITIONS WHICH, IF MAINTAINED, COULD HAVE THE SAME EFFECT, BECAUSE THEY WOULD POSE SEEMINGLY INSUPERABLE NEGOTIATING PROBLEMS. CONDITIONS ARE THAT ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD ON SAME DAY THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY, SHOULD FOLLOW IDENTICAL ELECTION PROCEDURES, AND DIVISION OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS AMONG MEMBER NATIONS SHOULD BE STRICTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THEIR RESPECTIVE POPULATIONS.

2. COMMENT: UDR POSITION ON EUROPEAN ELECTIONS MAY BE

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FIRST EXAMPLE OF RUMORED GAULLIST EFFORT TO REESTABLISH  
THE FORMATION'S IDENTITY WITHIN MAJORITY COALITION ON  
HEELS OF GENERALLY DISAPPOINTING PARTY PERFORMANCE IN  
RECENT CANTONAL CONTESTS. CERTAIN GAULLIST FIGURES,  
SUCH AS MICHEL DEBRE AND ALEXANDRE SANGUINETTI, OVER  
RECENT MONTHS HAVE CALLED FOR SUCH TACTICS. FOLLOWING  
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CANTONALS THEY ARE REPEATING THEIR CONCERN THAT THE UDR

IS FAILING ELECTORALLY BECAUSE IT HAS ALLOWED ITSELF AND ITS TRADITIONAL POLICIES TO BE IMMERSED IN AN AMORPHOUS GISCARD-LED "PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY." ALTHOUGH UDR POLICY ON EUROPEAN ELECTIONS WAS SUPPOSEDLY SET AT FEBRUARY 17 CLOSED-DOOR EXECUTIVE BUREAU SESSION, DECISION TO GO PUBLIC NOW MAY REFLECT INCREASED ACCEPTABILITY OF DEBRE/SANGUINETTI VIEWS.

3. SEVERITY OF UDR RESOLUTION CAME AS A SURPRISE TO MOST OBSERVERS, WHO HAD ASSUMED THAT CHIRAC IN HIS "LOYAL PRIME MINISTER" ROLE WOULD DISSUADE THE PARTY FROM TAKING OVERLY CRITICAL POSITION ON A PRESIDENTIAL POLICY. ALSO SURPRISING WAS THAT CHIRAC WAS ACTUALLY PRESENT AT THE SESSION WHICH VOTED RESOLUTION. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS PUBLICLY ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH A POSITION AT LEAST IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF A PRESIDENTIAL POLICY.

4. WE ASKED PRESIDENTIAL DIPLOMATIC STAFF MEMBER LEVITTE TUESDAY HOW THE ELYSEE IS REACTING TO UDR EXECUTIVE BUREAU PRONOUNCEMENT. LEVITTE SAID THAT PRESIDENT IS DETERMINED TO MOVE AHEAD AND CONFIRM UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE ELECTION TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AT NEXT EUROPEAN SUMMIT IN APRIL. UDR STATEMENT IS VIEWED AS A "MAXIMUM POSITION" WHICH CAN BE WATERED DOWN CONSIDERABLY. LEVITTE SAID THAT WHILE UDR POLICY STATEMENT HANDICAPS GISCARD AND WILL PREVENT HIM FROM MAKING MAJOR CONCESSIONS IN APRIL, IT ALSO HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF HELPING GISCARD FEND OFF DEMANDS FOR MAJOR CONCESSIONS FROM THE SMALLER COUNTRIES OF THE EC-9. IN SHORT, PRESIDENCY FEELS IT WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, INCLUDING A MAJORITY OF THE UDR DEPUTIES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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